

Message Text

SECRET

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70

ORIGIN NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 NIC-01 OMB-01

SAM-01 /173 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/RA:TGGRANT:SDSCHIFF:AMP

APPROVED BY NEA - SIDNEY SOBER

AF/RA:AJNAVEZ

EA/RA:RDNETHERCUT (SUBS)

EUR/RPM:RHFROWICK (SUBS)

PM/ISO:JDSTODDART (DRAFT)

D:MASAMUELS (DRAFT)

DOD/ISA:RPEYER(SUBS)

S/S:WHLUERS

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R 242305Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY SANAA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
COMIDEASTFOR
CINCLANT
CINCPAC
CINPACFLT
CINCEUR
CINCUSNAVEUR

S E C R E T STATE 110116

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, US, UK, UR

SUBJECT: ACTING SECRETARY'S REMARKS ON INDIAN OCEAN

1. ACTING SECRETARY MADE FOLLOWING REMARKS CONCERNING
INDIAN OCEAN DURING RESTRICTED SESSION OF CENTO MINISTERIAL
COUNCIL MAY 22, WHICH DEVOTED TO REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL
SITUATION.

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-- BOTH MIDDLE EAST WAR AND SUBSEQUENT EVENTS, PARTICULARLY
PROSPECTIVE REOPENING OF SUEZ CANAL HAVE FOCUSED MORE
ATTENTION ON INDIAN OCEAN.

-- OPENING OF SUEZ CANAL WILL BENEFIT MANY COUNTRIES,
ESPECIALLY THE SOVIETS. IT WILL MAKE IT EASIER FOR SOVIET
NAVAL FORCES TO DEPLOY TO THE INDIAN OCEAN/PERSIAN GULF.

ALL SHIPS IN SOVIET NAVY ARE SMALL ENOUGH TO TRANSIT CANAL. US AIRCRAFT CARRIERS ARE TOO LARGE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT CANAL BY ITSELF WILL DETERMINE THE LEVEL OF SOVIET MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE REGION, HOWEVER. THEIR NAVAL DEPLOYMENTS HAVE BEEN RISING GRADUALLY SINCE THEY FIRST DEPLOYED WARSHIPS TO INDIAN OCEAN IN 1968.

-- WE PLAN THAT OUR DEPLOYMENTS FROM OTHER AREAS TO INDIAN OCEAN WILL BE MORE REGULAR AND MORE FREQUENT IN FUTURE. WE DO NOT WANT INDIAN OCEAN TO BECOME A SOVIET LAKE. BUT OUR DEPLOYMENTS IN INDIAN OCEAN SHOULD BE VIEWED FROM THE

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE, AND IN TERMS OF PRESERVING A BALANCE IN INDIAN OCEAN ITSELF AS WELL AS MAINTAINING THE PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION.

R-2 WE PLAN TO EXPAND FACILITIES ON DIEGO GARCIA TO PROVIDE LIMITED LOGISTIC SUPPORT TO OUR PERIODIC DEPLOYMENT OF SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT TO AREA. DIEGO GARCIA IS NOW A DOLS 19.6 MILLION COMMUNICATION FACILITY. WE INTEND TO EXPEND ANOTHER DOLS 32 MILLION DURING NEXT FISCAL YEAR ON SUCH THINGS AS LENGTHENING THE RUNWAYS, EXPANDING POL CAPABILITIES AND DREDGING THE LAGOON. THESE BUDGET FIGURES INDICATE THAT WHAT WE ARE PLANNING IS A MODEST FACILITY AND NOT AN OPERATIONAL BASE WHICH WOULD COST FAR HIGHER AMOUNTS. ACTING SECRETARY ALSO MENTIONED THAT RUNWAYS ON DIEGO GARCIA WOULD NOT BE CAPABLE OF HANDLING B-52'S.

2. FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN, IN BRIEF COMMENT, SAID THAT UK AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN EUROPE CONCERNED ABOUT HAVING SOVIETS ATHWART THEIR OIL SUPPLY LINES. THEREFORE, UK CONSIDERED ALLIED NAVAL PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN VITAL.

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WELCOMED US PRESENCE THERE. HE ALSO NOTED THAT NEXT CENTO NAVAL EXERCISE IN FALL OF 1974 WOULD HAVE LARGE NUMBER OF SHIPS AND WOULD CONVEY A SIGNAL TO THE SOVIETS. RUSH

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